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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, with:

ex note
located
on line
19
AS
As a method for correcting variations in the characteristics of the solid state photosensing device, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. Sho. 56-161777, for example, discloses a method of storing the output signals of each solid state photosensing device for the two levels of reference signals of light (a black level and a white level) and correcting variations of each picture element in sensitivity by using the stored output signals. It should be noted that this method requires supplying two levels of reference signals of light and the saturation levels differ from one solid state photosensing device to another even though the correction is performed.

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IN THE CLAIMS

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Replace the indicated claims with:

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1. (Amended) ✓ An image sensor comprising:
an image sensing portion having a plurality of solid state photosensing devices for converting light into electric signals,
drive potential supply means for supplying a drive potential to the solid state photosensing devices,
amplifying means for receiving the electric signals and amplifying the electric signals with a variable gain, and
controlling means for controlling the variable gain of the amplifying means, wherein the amplifying means changes the variable gain according to a reset signal produced by the solid state photosensing device in a state in which substantially no light is incident.
 2. (Amended) ✓ The image sensor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the drive potential supply means supplies two switchable levels of drive potentials and the amplifying means changes the variable gain according to two different reset signals which

are produced by the solid state photosensing devices in response to the two switchable levels of drive potentials.

3. (Amended) The image sensor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the amplifying means has a linear input-output relation.

4. (Amended) The image sensor as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the amplifying means has a non-linear input-output relation.

5. (Amended) The image sensor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the amplifying means produces the electric signal in digital format.

6. (Amended) The image sensor as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising storing means for storing reset signals produced by each of the solid state photosensing devices, wherein the amplifying means changes the variable gain according to the stored reset signals.

7. (Amended) The image sensor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the solid state photosensing devices produce the electric signals in a non-linear relation with respect to quantity of incident light.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Replace the abstract with:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image sensor producing an output image superior in uniformity by correcting variations in the characteristics of solid state photosensing devices (pixels). Correction utilizes a correlation between a reset signal and sensitivity of the solid state photosensing devices. A reset signal is produced by driving the solid state photosensing devices in a